

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ACDA-12 /064 W  
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P R 041817Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7334  
INFO USICA WASHDC  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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BRUSSELS PASS USEC  
PARIS PASS OECD  
VIENNA PASS IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENGR, MNUC, PARM, GW  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO NON-PROLIFERATION ACT

1. MOST MEDIA IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC VIEW THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION ACT AS YET ANOTHER ISSUE CONTRIBUTING TO  
THE DETERIORATION OF GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE  
GENERALLY NEGATIVE COMMENT HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY  
EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED SUSPICION OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS,  
WITH MOST NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AND RADIO-TV COMMENTARIES  
POINTING TO POTENTIAL DANGERS FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S  
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ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM. MUCH OF THE COMMENT INDICATES  
IGNORANCE OF THE ACT, BUT THERE IS WIDESPREAD CON-  
VICTION -- DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN TONE AND NUANCE --  
THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION NOW HAS THE LEGAL WHERE-  
WITHAL TO CONDUCT WHAT ONE NEWSPAPER (DIE WELT, MARCH  
LO) CALLED "AN ACT OF BLACKMAIL." MOREOVER, COMMENT ON  
THE NEW LEGISLATION IS OFTEN LINKED WITH SUCH MATTERS

AS THE CONTROVERSIAL NEUTRON WEAPON DECISION AND EVEN THE WEAKENED STATE OF THE DOLLAR, THE THRUST OFTEN BEING THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC MUST NOT AND NEED NOT SUBJECT ITSELF TO UNDUE PRESSURES FROM WASHINGTON. "WE ARE ASKING OURSELVES," THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG SAID TODAY, "HOW LONG WE WILL HAVE TO SUFFER FROM SUCH POLICIES."

2. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT CRITICISM OF THE NEW LEGISLATION IS SO GENERAL THAT ONE CANNOT ATTRIBUTE IT TO A SPECIFIC POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OR LEANING. THUS, CRITICISM IN THE CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT TODAY, WHERE COMMENT ON THE NEW ACT IS COUPLED WITH VIEWS ON THE PRESIDENT'S "IRRESPONSIBLE PLAY WITH THE DOLLAR," IS NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH APPEARED IN THE LEFT-LEANING FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES WERE DESCRIBED AS COMING "CLOSE TO EXTORTION."

3. THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE DER SPIEGEL PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE ON THE ACT IN ITS MARCH 27 ISSUE, WHICH WAS FACTUALLY WRONG ON SEVERAL POINTS ("THE U.S. WANTS TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL AND INSPECT ALL NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC"), BUT WHICH SUCCEEDED IN STIRRING CONSIDERABLE COMMENT AMONG JOURNALISTS IN BONN. THE MAGAZINE SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REGARDED THE AMERICAN MEASURE AS "AN UNFRIENDLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACT" AND AS "A BREACH OF THE LAW." SEVERAL MEDIA CONTACTS HAVE SINCE SAID THAT THIS WAS PRECISELY THE CHANCELLOR'S ATTITUDE.

4. COVERAGE OF FRG MEDIA COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN RATHER COMPLETE IN THE POST'S DAILY PRESS REVIEW GOING BACK TO THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH WHEN THE FIRST COMMENTARIES BEGAN TO APPEAR. A SAMPLING FOLLOWS:

DIE WELT (MARCH 10): "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT MAY GIVE RISE TO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. OBSERVERS SPEAK OF AN ACT OF BLACKMAIL BY THE FRG'S MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLIER OF ENRICHED URANIUM. EXPERTS ARE CONCERNED LEST CANADA AND AUSTRALIA CONSIDER THE AMERICAN MOVE A SIGNAL FOR ESTABLISHING NEW CONDITIONS FOR EXPORTING NATURAL URANIUM."

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG (MARCH 13): "HOW THICK MUST BE THE LAYER OF ICE WHICH COVERS GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS DESPITE ALL PROTESTATIONS OF MILD WEATHER (EXCLAIMER)."

GENERAL-ANZEIGER (MARCH 14): "BONN POLITICAL QUARTERS  
ANTICIPATE NEW DIFFICULTIES FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN RE-

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LATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR NON-PRO-  
LIFERATION ACT. IN THE VIEW OF EXPERTS, THE ACT GIVES  
THE WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION AN INSTRUMENT TO BRING  
NEW PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE FRG IN REGARD TO THE  
GERMAN-BRAZILIAN DEAL. BONN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS ARE ALL  
THE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT SINCE THEY  
HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR WEEKS TO DESCRIBE GERMAN-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS AS BASICALLY INTACT, DESPITE CONTINUALLY  
ARISING DIFFICULTIES.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (MARCH 21): "ALTHOUGH  
OFFICIAL REACTION HAS BEEN MARKED BY COMPOSURE, THERE IS  
GROWING CONCERN IN BONN, IN THE EC COMMISSION, IN  
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INDIVIDUAL EC COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AMONG SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRICAL POWER ABOUT FURTHER RESTRICTIONS IN AMERICAN NUCLEAR POLICY."

DIE ZEIT (MARCH 30): "ANOTHER CONFLICT WHICH WAS APPARENTLY SETTLED AT THE LONDON SUMMIT -- DISAGREEMENT OVER GERMAN NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO BRAZIL, A MATTER WHICH MADE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEE RED -- IS ABOUT TO ERUPT AGAIN. AN AMERICAN ACT, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE THIS MONTH, REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION THROUGH LEGALISTIC MEANS OF CARTER'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. IMPLEMENTING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, THIS ACT GIVES THE PRESIDENT UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERVENE IN THE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POLICY OF COUNTRIES WHICH, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, USE AMERICAN URANIUM TO OPERATE NUCLEAR REACTORS ... BONN CANNOT MOUNT ITS HIGH HORSES. THEREFORE, IT IS INCLINED TO COMPLY AND BE COOPERATIVE. IT EVEN KEEPS SILENT, EVEN THOUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS IN FOR IMMENSE TROUBLE."  
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## Message Attributes

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